

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 198414 TOSEC 200290

61

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

SS-15 NSC-05 /061 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FCRUMP:DJM

APPROVED BY AF/WESCHAUFEELE

AF/S:FGWISNER

S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN

----- 077193

P R 102141Z AUG 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198414 TOSEC 200290

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJECT: CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA -- UPDATE  
AND ASSESSMENT

REF: STATE 196816 (NOTAL)

1. SITUATION REMAINED TENSE AFTER FOURTH DAY OF RENEWED  
DEMONSTRATIONS IN JOHANNESBURG'S AFRICAN TOWNSHIP OF  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 198414 TOSEC 200290

SOWETO WHICH HAVE RESULTED SO FAR IN DEATHS OF SEVEN

AFRICANS. DEMONSTRATIONS BEGAN ON AUGUST 4 LED BY STUDENTS PROTESTING ARREST OF SEVERAL OF THEIR LEADERS IN CONNECTION WITH EARLIER INCIDENTS. MOST DRAMATIC CONFRONTATIONS WITH POLICE OCCURRED AS RESULT OF SEVERAL UNSUC-

CESSFUL EFFORTS OF DEMONSTRATORS TO BREAK OUT OF SOWETO AND MARCH ON CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG. DEMONSTRATORS ALSO COMBINED PERSUASION, INTIMIDATION AND SABOTAGE IN EFFORTS TO PREVENT SOWETO RESIDENTS FROM GOING INTO JOHANNESBURG TO THEIR JOBS. WIDELY EFFECTIVE ON FIRST DAY, THESE TACTICS HAVE BEEN LESS SUCCESSFUL SINCE AND APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE EFFECT BY AUGUST 6. OUTLOOK IS FOR CONTINUED ACTS OF DEFIANCE IN COMING DAYS.

2. THE ACTS OF DEFIANCE OF WHITE AUTHORITY WHICH HAVE PERSISTED SINCE THE FIRST SOWETO RIOTS IN JUNE SUGGEST

THAT THE FEELINGS OF POWERLESSNESS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVALENT AMONG AFRICANS SINCE SHARPEVILLE NO LONGER EXIST, AT LEAST FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION. THE AFRIKAANS LANGUAGE ISSUE WAS ONLY A SURFACE CAUSE OF THE JUNE OUTBREAK AS IS THE PRESENT CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES. THE COMING OF AFRICAN RULE IN MOZAMBIQUE HAD A MAJOR PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS. THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE POWER OF AFRICAN LABOR IN A SERIES OF STRIKES BEGINNING IN 1973 FURTHERED THE PROCESS OF RENEWED CONFIDENCE AS DID THE INABILITY OF A WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY TO HAVE ITS WAY IN ANGOLA. THE PRESENT GENERATION OF STUDENTS, CHILDREN OF AN URBAN ELITE, FINDS THE HUMILIATION OF APARTHEID PARTICULARLY ACUTE. SOUTH AFRICA'S SEVERE RECESSION AND HIGH RATE OF BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO PRESENT FERMENT.

3. THE VIOLENCE HAS NOT REACHED A LEVEL WHERE IT BEGINS TO THREATEN OVERALL PUBLIC ORDER IN SOUTH AFRICA; IN FACT, THE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE PRINCIPALLY LIMITED TO THE TRANSVAAL AND NATAL. THE FAILURE SINCE LAST JUNE TO FIND A WAY TO COPE WITH THESE ACTS OF DEFIANCE BY STUDENTS BRINGS TO THE FORE BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REGIME'S ABILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITHIN THE PRESENT POLICY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 198414 TOSEC 200290

WITH PROBLEMS POSED BY INCREASINGLY RESTIVE URBAN BLACK AFRICANS. THERE ARE SIGNS THAT OFFICIAL PATIENCE IS

WEARING THIN. IN THE IMMEDIATE OFFING WE SHOULD ANTICIPATE A SHAKE-UP IN THE GOVERNMENT'S BLACK AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION AND SOME EXTENSION OF URBAN SANITATION AND HOUSING TO BLACKS. CONTINUING VIOLENCE IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BRING MUCH TOUGHER SECURITY MEASURES. TO DATE,

HOWEVER, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN NO INCLINATION TO MAKE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN ITS RACIAL POLICIES.

4. FOR ACTION ADDRESSEE. THIS CABLE CORRECTS PARA 2 REFTEL WHICH SHOULD REFER TO "STRIKES BEGINNING IN 1973" RATHER THAN 1975. ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE198414  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** FCRUMP:DJM  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760308-0196  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760867/aaaacgqd.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 196816  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA -- UPDATE AND ASSESSMENT  
**TAGS:** PINS, PORS, SF  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006